

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
 NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD
 OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES

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Investigation of:

MV ETHAN ALLEN,
 LAKE GEORGE, NEW YORK,
 OCTOBER 2, 2005

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 * Docket No.: DCA 06 MM 001
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Interview of: HELEN NILES

National Transportation Safety Board
 490 L'Enfant Plaza East, S.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20594

Tuesday
 October 11, 2005

The above-captioned matter convened, pursuant to
 notice, at 4:25 p.m.

BEFORE: MARIETTE BURER

APPEARANCES:

MARIETTE BURER

National Transportation Safety Board

MAJ. STEVEN RIVENBURGH

New York State Park Police

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I N T E R V I E W

(4:25 p.m.)

MS. BURER: Okay, today is October 11, 2005 and it is approximately 4:25 p.m., and my name is Mariette Burer with the National Transportation Safety Board. Go ahead.

MR. RIVENBURGH: And my name is Steve Rivenburgh. I'm with the New York State Park Police.

MS. BURER: And we're interviewing. Go ahead and say your name.

MS. NILES: Helen Niles.

MS. BURER: Okay, thank you.

INTERVIEW OF HELEN NILES

BY MS. BURER:

Q. We're interviewing you in regards to the accident that occurred Sunday, October 2, 2005. And I understand that you were a passenger on the Ethan Allen?

A. Correct.

Q. Okay, can you describe in your own words exactly what has happened and even before you boarded the vessel. So, what did you do at the beginning of the day?

A. Well, we were sightseeing, of course. And our time to be on the deck of the Ethan Allen was 2:30 p.m. Originally, it was three, but because the boat was available, they said if we were there, we could board at 2:30 p.m., which we did. It was approximately 2:30 p.m.

1 Before we boarded, I was probably halfway in the
2 crowd prepared to board. Up to that point, a lot of the people
3 that had boarded the boat all boarded to the left side.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. And we observed that the boat tilted slightly to the
6 left. And I had a funny feeling that, you know, one woman,
7 that was enough for her; she didn't board. It did tilt a
8 little to the left, but as soon as people started boarding,
9 they started going over to the right side, seated on the right
10 side. It righted itself, the boat righted itself. So, we did
11 have a little tilting to the left. Probably half of the people
12 had boarded already. It should have been a warning, but you
13 know, it didn't happen. In my brain it didn't happen, so
14 anyway we boarded, and about half way, the left side where
15 three people were seated, I sat in the center seat with others
16 on either side of me.

17 The boat started out and, you know, I thought it was
18 funny that we started out and there was only the captain. It
19 never occurred to me is there another person. Had there been
20 another person on board, I don't think it would have made a
21 difference on survival because it happened so quickly. There
22 was no instruction, you know, like where life jackets were or
23 anything. That didn't sink into my head either, that this is
24 not the way it is supposed to go.

25 The boat proceeded on the tour. I believe it was

1 twenty minutes to a half hour into the tour. We were near the
2 shoreline, not real far. We were out a ways, but not real far.
3 It was a beautiful sunny afternoon. The windows were all open.
4 I was on the left side, and my roommate who did not survive,
5 she and I were just discussing the homes along the shoreline;
6 she and I were just talking. And all of a sudden, oh, I'm
7 going to say I think the water on the left side was perfectly
8 calm. And there were no boats between us and the shore. It
9 was totally calm. And all of a sudden the captain turned the
10 boat very, very sharp, a very sharp turn. And it was fast,
11 very, very fast. I don't know that we had even completed, it
12 was well into the turn, but I'm not sure that we even completed
13 the turn in my brain. I thought, my God, he had better
14 straighten this boat out fast or else and that was it or else.
15 The boat missed it, and people were flying and sliding from the
16 right side to the left. And, of course, with that additional
17 weight, the boat just went under the water, and folks slid over
18 and it was seconds.

19 Do you want me to go on and tell you how I survived
20 or what?

21 Q. Yes, yes, you're doing great.

22 A. Okay, thank you. Okay, the boat is overtopped and
23 I'm submerged in the water. And, of course, the boat wasn't
24 deep because it was at this point on top of the surface. So, I
25 did hear when the boat came over on top of us, I heard the

1 thump when the boat hit the water on the other side. I heard a
2 thump. I was submerged out of the boat, and I looked over to
3 my left, and I see the water is a lighter green just a little
4 ways from me, just a little bit. The water is a lighter green
5 there, and I knew that was the windows. But we weren't so deep
6 that you couldn't see the difference in the color of the water.
7 And I knew in my mind that is where I have got to be. I've got
8 to be there where the water is lighter and that, you know, the
9 window. I don't recall from where I was to the window.

10 The next recollection I have was my shoulder was
11 scraped, and I was passing, I think I was out by now. But my
12 shoulder, my right shoulder hit. My right shoulder was up
13 right against the boat, so I knew I was now on the outside.
14 And I popped up, and of course, I ascended, and it wasn't
15 terribly deep. The water was very rapid and you could see the
16 difference in the sky. And I could see, you know, the light
17 above me in a short, short period of time, just popped right
18 up. We weren't that deep.

19 So, I popped up a little ways out from the boat, and
20 there was a man clinging to the little ledge. And there was
21 just trim on the boat. It was very tiny, a fingertip grip on
22 it. I put my hand on his shoulder, and I know that I scared
23 him because he thought I was going to pull him down. I swam
24 not a lot, but I do handle a little bit of water, and I just
25 wanted to maneuver myself over so I could get my fingers on the

1 ledge. I think he was very relieved when I let go of him. So,
2 anyways, I had been clinging and I see a rescue boat out, a
3 rescue boat not that far. I thought I can do that, I can do
4 that. Also, there were a lot of things thrown into the water,
5 the people coming to rescue us, you know, just throwing
6 everything and anything they had in their boats out to us. But
7 in my mind I just got to swim to this boat. And I hadn't
8 panicked yet because under ordinary circumstances I could have
9 swam it, no sweat. I let go of the boat, I don't know, I took
10 two or three strokes. I attempted two or three strokes, and I
11 knew I couldn't swim. I had a bulky sweater on that just
12 absorbed tons of water. I couldn't even lift my arms out of
13 the water to stroke. I had bulky shoes on. I was not able to
14 bring my feet up to kick because I thought I can dog paddle,
15 but I couldn't bring my feet up to kick, so now I know I'm in
16 trouble.

17 There was a child's like lifejacket ahead of me in
18 front of me, and I thought, if I could just get that far, if I
19 could just get that far, I'll grab that. Well, I was about to
20 set out and I was moving in the water and I knew to keep myself
21 a float. And I heard a engine coming toward me, and I looked
22 up and there was a young man on a little water vehicle. It was
23 really little. It was not a big fancy jet ski or anything. It
24 was just a little vehicle burgundy color, and he was sitting on
25 it. And I looked up at him, and he looked right up into my

1 face so I knew he was coming for me. And I got my hand up out
2 of the water, and he reached down and took my hand, and he
3 pulled me over to the boat that I thought I was going to swim
4 to in the first place. And then a woman who had a pole and she
5 was desperate to -- we tried to pull her up there to reach
6 people. And he took me onto the pole, and when he saw that I
7 had a good grip on the pole, he went on his way to rescue other
8 people. I know because when I was telling other people, she
9 said that must be the same guy that got me to the pole and
10 scooted off. The woman on the boat threw her pole and pulled
11 me in and another gentleman that was on the boat and helped me
12 into the boat. And when they had five people on the boat, they
13 took us to shore. Do you need me to keep going?

14 Q. Yes.

15 A. And then it was hospital and I hadn't suffered any
16 injures.

17 Q. No injuries?

18 A. No physical, my heart and my head. But no physical
19 injuries. I had no injuries.

20 Q. Okay, so you did not stay overnight in the hospital?

21 A. I didn't. They checked me out. And of course we had
22 diesel fuel, you know, we had come up with diesel fuel. And I
23 was light-headed, a headache kind of thing, but I guess that
24 was from breathing in fumes.

25 As soon as they took all my vitals in the hospital

1 and it looked like I was in pretty good shape vital wise, they
2 had me take a shower and all my clothes were off by that time.
3 And anyway they had me take a shower and shampoo and everything
4 to help get the fumes out.

5 Q. Okay, now I know that you mentioned earlier that you
6 wore a bulky sweater and bulky shoes?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What kind of pants did you wear?

9 A. I had jeans.

10 Q. Jeans?

11 A. Blue denims and they were heavy, too. You know how
12 heavy denims are soaked. I was really heavy. I think if I
13 hadn't gotten rescued, I wouldn't have lasted in the water very
14 long.

15 Q. Okay, now the burgundy boat, the small boat.

16 A. It was like a ski jet kind of thing.

17 Q. Right. Is that a rescue boat or is that a pleasure
18 boat?

19 A. That was a pleasure boat.

20 Q. Okay, was the rescue boat nearby the burgundy boat?

21 A. No, a little ski jet thing, let's see, it would have
22 been from my right. From shore, but he wasn't at shore, you
23 know, he was real close. He was moving in real fast, as fast
24 as that little vehicle would go.

25 Q. Right.

1 A. And he just pulled me through the water because it
2 wasn't a two-person thing. He just pulled me through the water
3 over to the pole where the person in the rescue boat rescued
4 me. I got a hold of the pole and he scooted off as soon as he
5 seen I had a hold of the pole.

6 Q. Now, did the children's lifejacket, where did that
7 come from?

8 A. I'm going to presume that it had been thrown off one
9 of the pleasure boats because the people coming in off these
10 pleasure boat things, they were just throwing everything they
11 could into the water. There was a lot of stuff floating around
12 out in the water, but not close enough for the people that was
13 still clinging to the boat to get a hold of it. You had move
14 out a little ways to get them. And when I saw that I wasn't
15 going to be able to swim to the boat, I saw the jacket and it
16 was much closer. And I tried to get myself moving into that
17 direction.

18 Q. Right. Now, did you swim at all, or do you find
19 yourself a pretty good swimmer?

20 A. I'm just a mediocre swimmer. I'm not a real good
21 swimmer, no. But I know that I can swim well enough that if I
22 hadn't been handicapped with my clothes bogged down with water,
23 I could have swam to the nearest boat.

24 Q. Okay, and can you tell me again what you hit with
25 your right shoulder?

1 A. It was the side of the boat, the outside of the boat.
2 I had just passed under the window, and I don't recall how I
3 got from where I was to the boat to the window. But as I
4 passed through the window, my right shoulder, you know, I felt
5 hit the top of it. I guess that is the bottom of the window
6 now. I'm mixed up. I know I hit the opening of the window
7 with my shoulder. And my right shoulder as I passed through, I
8 felt my shoulder going under the window, and then I felt the
9 boat up against my right shoulder just momentarily because I
10 was on my way up.

11 Q. Okay, and you mentioned something earlier about
12 holding onto the ledge. How long do you think that you were
13 holding onto the ledge?

14 A. You know, I don't know. I tried to think this thing
15 through. Time seems like it was nothing to me. It wasn't
16 forever because I immediately, once I was situated out of the
17 water, I immediately looked around to see what my options were.
18 Okay, I'm in this God-awful predicament, what do I do now? And
19 I saw the boat not too far away and not realizing I was heavy,
20 I moved away from the boat and attempted to swim, but I didn't
21 get very far at all. I'm trying to remember.

22 Q. No, no, you're doing great. Thank you. And you
23 mentioned earlier that you had heard a thump?

24 A. Yeah, when the boat flipped over, when the side of
25 the boat that came over and hit the water, I heard a thump. It

1 was hitting the water, yeah.

2 Q. Okay.

3 A. I heard a thump, and I presume that was what it was
4 that I heard.

5 Q. And which side did it flip over?

6 A. The left side went down and the right side came over,
7 sort of like an umbrella. And I didn't actually see it coming
8 over. I was still looking around me and the confusion, you
9 know. But I know it did because I heard the thump when it hit
10 the water. And then it was dark above it and the lighter green
11 at the windows was now below us.

12 Q. Okay, so in order to go towards the lighter green,
13 what did you have to do?

14 A. I don't know how I got there. I really don't know.
15 It was like I blacked out. The next thing I knew I was there
16 at the window, and I was just on the outside of it. I was just
17 coming around the edge when I was on the outside. And that was
18 when my right shoulder felt that.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Between where I was under the boat and where that
21 window was, I don't remember at all how I got there. I knew I
22 was very determined in my mind. Okay, that's where I've got to
23 be. I was in a real survival mode, and let me tell you I
24 didn't think anything but survival. I knew I had to be there,
25 but I don't recall how I got there.

1 Q. Okay, and then you mentioned something earlier about
2 flying and sliding. People were flying and sliding from right
3 to left?

4 A. Right to the left.

5 Q. Can you expand a little bit more? Can you describe
6 more in detail?

7 A. I think, and I can't say prior to this because, you
8 know, your mind plays games with you a little bit. I think
9 that the people that were on the aisle was like sliding off the
10 bench. I think it was people on the opposite side of the boat.
11 As the boat pulled across, they sort of -- they sort of tumbled
12 out more. That's the way it seemed to me, but I know there
13 were people from the right side just coming at us from
14 different angles. They didn't all just slide off. There was
15 people coming over to our side of the boat from whichever
16 angle, you know, in the air. And it seems like it was.

17 Q. Did anyone slide into you?

18 A. No, because I was in the middle. Nobody slid into me
19 or struck me as they were coming across. I don't believe I was
20 hit in any manner by anybody.

21 Q. Okay, I'm just writing this down.

22 A. That is the best I can recall.

23 Q. No, this is what we expect from you, the best that
24 you can recall. Can you tell me, you were telling me that you
25 were sitting on the three seat bench and that you were in the

1 middle.

2 A. I was in the middle.

3 Q. Who was sitting next to you?

4 A. Ruth Rheinquist (ph.).

5 Q. Okay.

6 A. She was next to the window, Ruth was next to the
7 window. And then there was me. And then there was Frances
8 Nelson on my right.

9 Q. Okay, now Ruth is -- she did not make it. Correct?

10 A. That's correct.

11 Q. And Frances. And I believe I have an appointment
12 with her on the 13th.

13 A. Yes, right.

14 Q. Now, do you recall who was sitting behind you?

15 A. No, no, not at all.

16 Q. And do you recall who was sitting on the bench in
17 front of you?

18 A. Just one person.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Chris, who also passed away, was directly in front of
21 Frances Nelson. She was with our group and we so we could sit
22 together. Three of us, we sat, and Ruth took the seat directly
23 in front of Chris.

24 Q. Okay, and what is Chris's last name?

25 A. Grisom, I think.

1 MR. RIVENBURGH: Would her first name be Stephanie?

2 MS. NILES: Yes, it is. Stephanie Christine and she
3 was known as Chris. She was directly in front of Chris Nelson.
4 The four of us had boarded together.

5 BY MS. BURER:

6 Q. Okay, and then was she sharing that bench with two
7 other people?

8 A. Yes, she was.

9 Q. Okay, do you recall who they were?

10 A. No, I don't.

11 Q. Okay, and do you recall who was sitting in front of
12 Stephanie?

13 A. No.

14 Q. Okay, you said the captain turned the boat sharp?

15 A. Very sharp, it was a very sharp turn.

16 Q. And can you expand on that a little bit, as far as
17 when in the tour?

18 A. We were headed toward the shore and we were still a
19 long ways out but, you know, we were headed towards the shore.
20 And I don't understand why we were headed towards the shore,
21 and he would have had to turn the boat so, you know, to move
22 the boat away from the shore. But I don't understand why so
23 sharp. It was really, and in my mind I said, holy cow, you had
24 better straighten this boat out, we're going to, well, we did.
25 And I don't even think I thought those thoughts through. I

1 don't know why he turned so sharp. From where I was looking
2 everything was calm. And at some point he was going to have to
3 take a left and a right. We come from the left, so we had to
4 go right, but we had plenty of room to turn the boat. I don't
5 understand why he turned it so sharp.

6 Q. From your seat in the middle, what were you looking
7 at the most during that whole trip? Were you looking towards
8 the left or in front of you or to the right?

9 A. Mostly I would say to the left, to the shore.

10 Q. To the shore?

11 A. Probably. We were looking at the different homes and
12 things along the shoreline.

13 Q. Okay.

14 A. I glanced off to the right. I didn't see any boats
15 close to us. There were boats out there, but nothing was
16 really close. But like I said, you look around, but you were
17 concentrating more on the scenery and all on the left.

18 Q. Right. Did you at any time during the trip look back
19 at the captain?

20 A. You know, I don't recall. I don't recall looking at
21 him.

22 Q. And you stated there was only the captain that was
23 there and not another employee?

24 A. Not another employee per se from the boat company
25 that was on. And I had thought right away when we started off

1 that this seems a little odd to me, but I didn't think what
2 happened was going to happen. I would have gotten off earlier
3 if I had.

4 Q. Where was the captain? If I understand this
5 correctly, you were probably halfway in between the crowd?

6 A. Yeah, about halfway down in the crowd. He was
7 standing at the back.

8 Q. Okay, already on the boat when you came on?

9 A. Yes, he was. I believe he was. I'm not one hundred
10 percent sure, just ninety percent sure he was.

11 Q. Before you actually board the boat, did you have any
12 time to spend on the dock before you boarded the boat or did
13 you immediately go?

14 A. It was just a short time. I think we started
15 boarding pretty quick.

16 Q. Did you observe the captain at all on the dock area?

17 A. No, I don't think I did.

18 Q. Okay, when you actually boarded the boat, were most
19 people on the left or on the right side of the boat?

20 A. When we -- at first it seemed like everybody was
21 going to the left side and we saw the boat do that little lift.
22 But after the boat did that little lift, somebody hollered get
23 over on the right. And the next group of people did sit on the
24 right and the boat did right itself. I'm not sure.

25 Q. No, no, that's fine. When people were saying that

1 about the right side, were you already on board?

2 A. No, I was not. I was on the dock.

3 Q. Okay.

4 A. When I saw the boat take the little lift on the left,
5 I was on the dock.

6 Q. Okay, and then the people before you actually started
7 boarding on the right hand side?

8 A. Some did. After we saw the boat, you know the weight
9 distribution, the next bunch of people boarded on the right.
10 And then the boat righted itself and all. It wasn't a big
11 thing, but it did happen.

12 Q. Okay, did you hear any kind of strange noises or any
13 kind of foreign noises during your trip?

14 A. Do you mean like from the engine or anything?

15 Q. Any noises. Anything at all.

16 A. You know, in my mind that the engine was working hard
17 somehow, and I don't even know what the engine is supposed to
18 sound like, you know. But it did and I looked around and saw
19 it was a pretty heavy load, I guess. To me it did. I thought
20 it sounded like it was working hard, you know. I looked around
21 and everybody was seated by the way. Nobody was standing.
22 Everybody was seated, and I thought to myself this is a pretty
23 heavy load. But apparently the engine noise, and I don't know
24 one engine noise from another, but the engine noise said
25 something to my brain and that it was working hard.

1 Q. When did you have this thought, in the middle of the
2 trip or at the beginning of the trip?

3 A. It was pretty early, after we had left the dock. I
4 would say shortly after we had left the dock.

5 Q. Okay, did you -- of the boat. Can you tell me a
6 little bit about the speed?

7 A. Well, we weren't moving fast. How many miles per
8 hour, I don't know.

9 Q. Right. But it was a comfortable speed for you?

10 A. Yes, yes. I was fine with that.

11 Q. Okay, can you describe to me the bench that you were
12 sitting on?

13 A. It was very cramped for three, I'll tell you. We
14 were sitting and you know I'm glad I knew my people. We were
15 sitting intimately close (laughter). It would have been better
16 sitting two people. We were -- it was a very small bench for
17 three people to be sitting on. But we're not small people, you
18 know. A couple of pounds overweight, all of us. But for three
19 people it seemed that we were in close quarters.

20 Q. Okay, okay. I'm going to go ahead and turn this
21 over, okay. And thank you.

22 BY MAJ. RIVENBURGH:

23 Q. Ms. Niles, this is Steven Rivenburgh of the New York
24 State Park Police. When you were coming down to the boat, do
25 you recall if your bus driver was going to go with you?

1 A. No, he was not. He stayed with the bus.

2 Q. Okay, no intent, whatsoever, him going on the cruise?

3 A. I don't believe so.

4 Q. Okay, while you were at the dock waiting for the last
5 passengers to board, do you recall any interaction between the
6 captain and any other captains or deck hands?

7 A. No, I didn't see anybody there.

8 Q. Okay.

9 A. I don't recall. I don't recall anybody besides the
10 captain to tell you the truth.

11 Q. Do you recall anyone saying that anybody else on
12 board was acting as a deck hand?

13 A. No, no, I don't recall. I don't recall hearing that
14 at all.

15 Q. You did state earlier that you did not hear any
16 instructions on life jackets or --

17 A. No, we weren't instructed at all.

18 Q. Okay.

19 A. I don't remember hearing anything or anybody saying
20 anything. Actually I didn't know where the life jackets were.
21 I only heard where they were after the incident. I did not
22 know where the life jackets were.

23 Q. Okay, I'm going to write that down. But that was
24 after the incident. Right?

25 A. That I heard where they were?

1 Q. Yes.

2 A. Yeah, after the incident I heard, you know, people
3 were taking that there were lifejackets up front. I only heard
4 that after the incident.

5 Q. Okay, now you said the water was calm and there were
6 no boats on the left side?

7 A. On the left side. Correct, the water was very calm.

8 Q. About how close to the shoreline were you cruising
9 from? And this only has to be approximate.

10 A. Near, I know we had time to take a nice leisurely
11 turn before hitting shore. I am very sure of that. We had
12 plenty of time to take a nice leisurely turn, but this probably
13 would have been about the point that a boat would have started
14 turning away from shore I would think.

15 Q. Okay, what causes you to think that the captain made
16 a sharp turn?

17 A. Probably because of the -- how fast it all happened
18 and we were in the turn. It was just so fast. Why are we
19 turning so fast? I thought, holy cow, he had better straighten
20 this thing out quickly or we're going to go over. I didn't
21 have time to think it through. It just seemed to me it was
22 very, very rapid turn. We were going straight one minute and
23 we were turning the next and we were bumping the next. I don't
24 think it took three minutes.

25 Q. Okay, and again you bumped from what? Which way did

1 the boat go? Did it go down on the right or did it go up on
2 the right?

3 A. The left side of the boat is where the water came in.
4 I know that.

5 Q. So, you're telling me the left side went down?

6 A. Went down.

7 Q. Did you see any water come in?

8 A. Yeah.

9 Q. From the right side?

10 A. No, I didn't even look right. I was looking left
11 when I saw that initial water come through. And it came
12 through from the left and the left went under the water level.
13 And then this big green thing just engulfed us through the
14 window. It was on the left.

15 Q. Okay, a large amount of water fast. Correct?

16 A. I would say so, yeah.

17 Q. When you were on the cruise prior to the incident, do
18 you recall how the boat sat in the water?

19 A. To me it seemed like it was a little -- when I had
20 the thoughts about the engine working hard, I also had the
21 thought that we were sitting a little low maybe. And again I
22 contributed it to the boat was carrying a heavy load. So, that
23 thought did occur to me that maybe we were sitting a little
24 low.

25 Q. Okay, a little low the entire length of the vessel,

1 in the bow of the vessel, the stern of the vessel?

2 A. I think I was thinking in terms of the whole boat
3 sitting a little low. And the engine. And that was the
4 thoughts that I had at the same time. We were a little low,
5 and the way the engine was sounding, I looked around and
6 thought, we have a lot of people in here. That's my memory.

7 Q. Okay, prior to, or just during the incident, do you
8 recall hearing any engine sounds? I know you mentioned you
9 heard the thump.

10 A. The thump was the boat.

11 Q. Yeah.

12 A. Did I hear any thumps or anything from the engine?

13 Q. Yes.

14 A. No, I didn't.

15 Q. About the speed of the engine. Did you notice that
16 at all?

17 A. That it changed speed?

18 Q. Yes.

19 A. I -- when we went into the turn, it was almost like
20 it speeded up. I don't know because it happened so fast and
21 unexpected, of course. But I'm not sure because I had thought
22 at the time the wave, you know.

23 Q. You had other things of interest to handle?

24 A. I sure did, yeah. I sure did.

25 Q. Ms. Niles, I thank you. I have no further questions

1 at this time. No, I take that back, I do. Did you work?

2 A. What do you mean, do I work?

3 Q. When did you retire?

4 A. I retired from volunteer work a couple years ago. I
5 worked for the church, the Catholic Church. I was into
6 religious education. I had been teaching for thirty years.
7 But most of it is like volunteer work, you know, for the
8 church. But most of my working year was working in religious
9 education in the Catholic Church.

10 Q. Okay, did you ever have any Red Cross training?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Swimming lessons and things of that nature? First
13 aid?

14 A. No.

15 Q. Okay, thank you very much.

16 A. Are we all done here?

17 MS. BURER: Yes, Ms. Niles, thank you much, and I
18 appreciate your time.

19 MS. NILES: Okay.

20 MS. BURER: I'm going to go ahead and conclude this
21 interview then.

22 (Whereupon, the interview in the above-entitled
23 matter was concluded.)

24

25

CERTIFICATE

This is to certify that the attached proceeding before the

NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF: MV Ethan Allen
 Lake George, New York
 October 2, 2005
 Interview of Helen Niles

DOCKET NUMBER: DCA 06 MM 001

PLACE: Washington, D.C.

DATE: October 11, 2005

was held according to the record, and that this is the
original, complete, true and accurate transcript which has been
compared to the recording accomplished at the hearing.

Peggy Daniels
Transcriber